Painting of a trio of Pakistani Air Force F-5A Freedom Fighters of a what-if scenario had they entered service.

However, this was one of the most controversial since there are mixed reports the F-5's did see brief service with Pakistan, while others said they didn't. The Northrop F-5A/B was originally offered to both India and Pakistan with both nations were refused the type over political reasons and the 1965 Indo-Pakistani War. Even though Pakistan was mostly rebuilding their air force with Chinese F-6 Farmers (MiG-19) and Mirage III/V fighters, they were still behind the Indian Air Force with their rapid growth of fighters from the UK, Soviet Union, and even their domestic made HF-24 Marut.

Despite that, Pakistan turned to their neighboring ally, Iran in which at the time, Iran was slowly phasing out their F-5A/B's with the F-4E and the new F-5E/F and were selling or donating to other nations. During and after the Second Indo-Pakistani War/Bangladeshi War of Independence, Iran would provide Pakistan an unknown number of F-5's and even the Iranian pilots to boost its force. However, the rest is up in the air because the reports are up in the air over if the F-5 was ever operated by Pakistan, but personally, probably didn't due to lack of official reports other than proposal talks between Iran and Pakistan.